

SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on January 19, 2005 in the lobby of the planetarium.

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Deborah A. Gray – 1st Vice President
Bertram E. Seides – Treasurer
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Trustee
Dr. William Rogers – Trustee
William Macchione – Trustee
Gretchen Oldrin-Mones – Trustee
Michael B. DeLuise – Trustee
Stanley M. Feldman - Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director
Legislator Cameron Alden – 10th Legislative District
Mitch Spivak – Staff
Bill Dieck – Staff
Maryann Zakshevsky – Staff
Florence Ogg – Staff
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

Absent:

Susan LeBow – Trustee
Carl Luecke – Trustee

(Dr. Gittelman called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

This is a regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees. My apologies that we're starting this meeting a little late. I want to thank those of you who are in the audience. I want to recognize Legislator Cameron Alden for being here. Thank you very much. Your attendance is always welcome. Do we have a list of people in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do we have minutes from the prior meeting?

MS. FUHRMANN:

We do. I have one comment – well, one comment and one thing to correct, which I believe is really my mistake. On page four, fourth paragraph, there is a number noted. It talks about Howard Kroplick's donation of in-kind concerning the Vanderbilt Parkway. I believe I neglected to say the word "dollars." The donation was worth \$13,500. Also, on page forty-six, I need a clarification. We were talking about notification of trustees. I said, "I've been telling Lance," and asked you if you'd rather I tell you. The minutes say that you said, "You can't tell Lance." I thought you said, "You can tell Lance."

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, that's correct.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Is it can't or can?

DR. GITTELMAN:

You can tell Lance.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay. Just a reminder that we have a tabled motion on page ten.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have a tabled motion?

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's in the minutes on page ten.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What was the tabled motion?

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's on ERISA.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All right, you'll have to refresh my memory, Marge. I appreciate that.

MS. FUHRMANN:

We were discussing what to do about what procedure we were going to put in place for notifications in the future about ERISA. A motion was made – let me find the motion. The motion is back two pages, I believe. You asked for a motion that we would keep the current format without hiring an administrator and that the additional cost to hire an administrator was something that we couldn't afford right now. You asked that a motion be made. It was made and seconded, and we had a discussion. By page ten we tabled that motion, and that's where it was left.

DR. GITTELMAN:

My recollection –

DR. PECORALE:

To employ an administrator?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No, that's not my recollection.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll just read this:

Dr. Gittelman:

Why don't we just table that motion for the time being and go from there.

Dr. Pecorale:

I move to table.

Ms. Fuhrmann:

Second.

Dr. Gittelman:

I have a motion and a second to table. All in favor? Opposed?

MS. FUHRMANN:

The vote was 9/0/0/6.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's funny, because our recollection of the past committee meeting was that we voted to reject the concept of an administrator.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's why I went back and looked at the minutes and why I'm mentioning it to you now.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. I appreciate that, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

That's the only reason I'm bringing it up.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Well –

DR. PECORALE:

We need a correction to the minutes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

There is no correction. The minutes are correct.

MS. FUHRMANN:

The minutes stand.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would rather leave the minutes as they are and bring up the issue again for discussion.

DR. PECORALE:

Fine.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would like to bring that up under Finance.

MR. MALLAMO

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes be accepted.

MS. GRAY:

So moved.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 10/0/05 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

Introduction of new trustees, Michael, would you be kind enough to introduce yourself.

MR. DELUISE:

First of all, I'm Mike DeLuise. If you look at my phone number on this sheet, it's a different number. Thanks to Optimum Online, my home number is 631-423-1572.

DR. PECORALE:

1573?

MR. DELUISE:

No, it's 1572. I'm used to three o'clock in the morning calls, so just feel free. My wife will answer but that's no problem.

DR. GITTELMAN:

What was that number again? I'm sorry.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's 423-1572, and that's your home number.

MR. DELUISE:

Yes. I'm Vice President of Dowling College. I'm a resident of Huntington. I have been on Long Island now going on 27 years. I'm familiar with this facility because I have visited a number of times. In my business before I worked for the college, I worked at Hofstra for about 16 years. But before that, I was in the entertainment promotion business and worked with accounts, including the Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium in the days when laserium was starting and those kinds of things. So, I'm really looking forward to working with you and trying to be an asset to help the museum raise some money and market itself. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you, Michael. Stan.

MR. FELDMAN:

My name is Stan Feldman. I retired two years ago or three years ago. I lose count. I'm a professional volunteer. I currently sit on the board of the Long Island Maritime Museum. I'm past chairman there. I'm president of my civic association and secretary of my condominium association in Florida. I'm the comptroller and risk manager of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association.

I'm going through a lot that you're going through right now. I have been in the insurance business for over 30 years. I know something about finances. I know something about securities. My degree was in business administration. I consider myself a troubleshooter and solver. This is my home phone number, and I take calls up to eleven o'clock at night. If you want, you can put down my cell phone, which is with me 24/7 because I do some traveling. It's 523-8835.

MR. MALLAMO:

Could you repeat the last two numbers, Stan?

MR. FELDMAN:

Sure, 8835. In fact, Lance and Steve, I would prefer that you use that for initial contact with me because you never know where I'm going to be.

MR. MALLAMO:

And that's 631 area code?

MR. FELDMAN:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Gentlemen, I welcome you both. Having spent some time with you, I know that Stan was here for seven hours on his introductory walk.

MR. FELDMAN:

I stayed for supper.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I urge all trustees to come and visit the museum but not for seven hours. We were grateful to you for having the enthusiasm. Michael has been through, and Gretchen, you've gone through now?

MS. OLDRIN-MONES:

I had a delightful tour yesterday. I really want to thank Lance for showing me things that are really not on view for the public yet, projects that are on line. Florence had everything in such beautiful shape with the archives. It was fascinating. I'm just so impressed with everything.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm glad each of you – I hope Michael's tour was –

MR. DELUISE:

I had a great time.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, then the report is that I know we have three strong trustees. I'm grateful to the Legislature for sending us such quality candidates. Having spent time with each of them – although not as much time with Gretchen – it seems like we have a good bunch. Thank you for joining us. Believe me, you'll have plenty to do.

Okay, election of officers. We have a slate. Bill, you're familiar with the slate. If you would, would you read the slate to us? You were the Chairman.

MR. MACCHIONE:

Steven Gittelman, President; Treasurer, Bert Seides; 1st Vice President, Deborah Gray; 2nd Vice President, Susan LeBow; and Secretary, Marjorie Fuhrmann.

DR. GITTELMAN:

This was a particularly hardworking committee. I appreciate the immense amount of time you put in, the depth that you went to. We all learned something from it. I think we have to go ahead. My responsibility is to ask for nominations from the floor for each of the positions. Then if there is a candidate nominated from the floor, we will vote on them individually. I imagine that we can start with the President. I'm nominated. Are there other nominations?

MR. FELDMAN:

I move that the nominations be closed.

DR. PECORALE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

If the nominations are closed, are you prepared to vote? If you are, all in favor? Signify by raising your right hand and saying aye. Thank you.

(Vote: 10/0/05 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)

For 1st Vice President it's Deborah Gray. Are there any nominations from the floor? Given that there are no nominations from the floor, can I have a motion to close nominations?

DR. PECORALE:

Motion.

MR. FELDMAN:

So moved.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 10/0/05 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

For 2nd Vice President, I have Susan LeBow. Susan is not here tonight, but we can vote in abstentia, and she has accepted the nomination. Are there any nominations from the floor? If there are no nominations from the floor, may I have a motion to close nominations?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll make that motion.

MR. FELDMAN:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

For Treasurer, I have Bert Seides. Bert has accepted the nomination, right?

MR. SEIDES:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have any other nominations from the floor? Having no nominations, may I have a motion to close nominations?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Motion.

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **(Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

Finally, I have the nomination for Secretary. Are there any nominations from the floor? Given that there are no nominations from the floor, can I have a motion to close nominations?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Motion.

MR. FELDMAN:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? I'm a no vote.

DR. PECORALE:

I'm opposed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Please note that there were two no votes, otherwise the nomination carries.
(Vote: 8/2/0/5 Opposed: Dr. Gittelman & Dr. Pecorale. Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)

The elected slate of officers is as stated. I'm President, Deborah Gray is 1st Vice President, Susan LeBow is 2nd Vice President, Marjorie is Secretary, and Bert Seides is Treasurer. I welcome you all to the Executive Committee. I look forward to working with you.

The first action I want to take as President is to establish the need for Executive Committee meetings, which I'm going to ask you to have once a month. Pick a Wednesday every month starting as soon as possible. If you would consider if that would work, that would be great. I would like to have Executive Committee meetings for every month until we feel we are comfortable with the condition of the museum.

There are a number of issues that I think the Executive Committee has to tackle. I feel that one of them is reviewing the Executive Director, which I would like to have the Executive Committee set out some guidelines for doing so.

The second is to briefly review our mission statement to make sure that it is relevant and to take a quick look at the bylaws to make sure that we're comfortable with all three. I realize that it will take a little work, but I think it's time for us take a peek. Moving on, Public Relations Report. No one is here.

MR. MALLAMO:

Leslie called. She was held up in Hauppauge. With the snow tonight, I asked her if she could keep her report until the next meeting.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Development Committee, Carl Luecke is not here.

MR. MALLAMO:

There was no meeting of the committee this month.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, Education and Exhibits Committee, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

The winter flyer for the school vacation program has gone out to the following school districts: Harborfields, East Northport, Northport. It has also gone to St. Patrick's School, and for the first time in years Huntington School District has also accepted it. A letter has gone to the Elwood School District asking if we could also send it to them. We are waiting for a reply.

A new twist this year is that once payment is received, a confirmation letter will be sent to the child giving the details of the program to which they are accepted into.

I have numbers -- by the way, the winter flyer went out last week. Last year the museum school groups annual increase over the prior year was \$11,771. This is just for educational tours. A new category is that we did weekend/holiday programs in education. This would be scout groups, 4-H and things like that. We have never done this before on weekends and holidays for these specific groups through education. That was an additional \$4,831, a new source of income. The increase over last year for the day camp programs was \$960, and that was our daily scavenger hunt.

For the month of December, we had 1,787 children attend for a revenue of \$13,103.50. On weekend group tours we had 246 people attend for \$861. We have some calendar year numbers. I'm not going to read them all off. Suffice it to say that for the calendar year for our museum school attendance we had a total income of \$184,984.85. For the summer museum attendance for the calendar year we earned \$13,389.50. For the weekend and holiday

museum group tours for the calendar year 2004, we earned \$4,831.50.

If anyone would like to see the details on this, I would be happy to share them with you. The planetarium school attendance for the month of December, we earned \$11,883.50. The weekend/holiday group tours, we earned \$835. For the calendar year 2004, school attendance revenue was \$184,474.55. The summer planetarium revenue was \$12,194.50. The weekend and holiday planetarium revenue was \$5,459. Again, anyone who would like to see the details of this, I would again be happy to share them with you. For the month of December, mansion group tours earned \$1,190.

Moving on, Stephanie was contacted by Robert Finnegan of the Islip Town Historical Society. In the spring, Islip Town will be placing a historical marker on the dock in Islip Hamlet to mark the spot where the whale shark was captured. We will be invited to the event.

The William Floyd School Library is continuing to borrow items from the museum for display. Currently they are borrowing a dinosaur display for the winter to go along with their current reading program.

Stephanie has also contacted Dr. Elliot Fishman of Duke University concerning having a three dimensional reconstruction done of the mummy face. We do not know if this will be able to be accomplished, but we are trying. The interim grant report is now being completed.

Fisher Island has recently been purchased by Euro-Funds Property. They have asked us to research our archives for photographs, and we are doing so.

The book by Warren and Wetmore will be out in early 2006. The Village of Lake Success is decorating their village offices with our photographs.

The Living History Tours will cover 1936 and will include additional characters and major rewriting.

Florence is also preparing a separate maritime art tour. Two of our guides are doing an outreach program at the Shelter Rock Library on March 17 on the Vanderbilt women.

Beth, who is the head of our educators, has joined the educators' roundtable

of LIMA. Florence is asking if any of the trustees, particularly the new trustees, have any suggestions or would like to participate as speakers at any of the LIMA programs. She will be attending the Long Island Library Resource breakfast with Long Island Legislators on February 25.

The planetarium's revenue from schools was up \$10,796 over last year. Just to point out one program, there was a brand new program this year called "Exploring Solar Systems," which was written in-house. In the time slot that that has taken over, it used to generate \$19,000 in income. With this new program it is now generating \$36,000 in income.

We are passing around letters from the Patchogue School District, Bay Avenue Elementary School praising, a program that they attended here at the museum called "Sky Tonight."

Our weather equipment is installed. Weather instruments are installed, and they are reporting through NOAA. If you go to the website www.weather.gov and go to the sub-sites listed, you will see us. This means that we now qualify for NOAA grants, and they will bring live lecturers here for us to utilize in our programs. We are now officially a NOAA site. We will be measuring temperature, snow depth, precipitation, and possibly lightening by the summer. If anyone would like to see the equipment, it is located on the eastern end of the parking lot by the educational center.

During regular museum hours, we have a moon rock on display. This moon rock was collected on the April Apollo 16 mission picked up by John Young. Originally it was only supposed to be here for four weeks, but we will have it until the end of January, at which point, Phil is going to drive it back to Goddard and pick up another exhibit. The one he will be picking up is an historic exhibit called "On the Creation of Rocketry and Dr. Goddard." We'll have that until the end of March, at which point he will bring that back and possibly will pick up another one.

We are also in line – we're trying to get a de-accessioned program that they are giving away called "Who is Dr. Goddard." It's on the history of liquid fuel rocketry.

As some of you may know, the dinosaur exhibit has been folded into the Education and Exhibits Committee. We are happy to let you all know that the dinosaur building is now heated. The programs are now being given in a

heated building. They were given today and yesterday, and the educators have informed us that it is warm and comfortable in there. Spray foam has been placed along the bottom of the building to prevent leakages. This program appears to be very, very popular with our younger students who come in.

All of you just received a little handout about a drawing. We mentioned this last month. The drawing is the original floor plan, and here comes Florence with her picture. It's the drawing of the original floor plan for the habitat. Originally, the floor was to be vellum, but it turned out that this was beyond Mr. Vanderbilt's budget. That's how we ended up with a glass floor. Florence, in researching her archives, has found these materials and would like us to vote on the accession of same. I'm going to turn this over to Florence so she can talk to you about what she has found and why it's important to the museum.

MS. OGG:

In your packet there is a letter dated February 1930. In that letter written by Mr. Vanderbilt, he does mention that the cost of this floor was more than what he wanted to spend. He actually then wanted the glass floor. If you have been to the habitat, you would see that that is what is there. These represent the dioramas, and this was a marble mosaic floor showing the harbor and the Alva. This was found in a closet. We just saw the reverse side. This is a wonderful time to accession this because this is in keeping with what we're working on at the habitat. This is signed by Warren and Wetmore. We know it's an original plan and something that Vanderbilt chose not to do, even though he had all the money he could use, but he decided not to do this. We would like to include this in our permanent collection. We have it stored and if accessioned, it will become part of something that we would take care of even more because it's permanent to our collection. Any questions?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Any questions? Further discussion? I have a motion from you, Marge, to accession.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes.

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Please indicate by raising your right hand and saying aye.

Motion carries unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)

DR. PECORALE:

We heard at the meeting that there is a belief that sometime during the year 2007, the habitat will be back –

MS. OGG:

I don't know the date for that. You might want to speak to Lance about that.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, that's our target.

DR. PECORALE:

Wonderful.

DR. GITTELMAN:

However, I think if you haven't been there of late –

DR. PECORALE:

I've been there.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Of late.

DR. PECORALE:

Not of late.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I spent a day down there not more than a month ago, and I was thrilled at its current condition. In fact, I spent time with Stephanie, and we discussed this floor. I personally liked the blue one better, but that would have been the

current blue floor. That's a wonderful plan.

DR. PECORALE:

As a sixth grade teacher many, many years ago, that was the highlight of our trip to the Vanderbilt Museum. The gentleman who did the AAM evaluation the last time – not this time around – but the last time, he was one of the students in that group. As you may recall, Lance, he said that it was one of the highlights of his educational visits as a young student. That's what made him want to become a curator of a museum.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's funny that you mentioned that, Tony, because I remember coming to the museum when I was about seven, and that exhibit I remember more than any other. The blue luminescence – I had never seen anything like it, so I could probably say the same thing for myself.

DR. PECORALE:

I can tell you that the sixth graders just marveled at it. It was devastating to me when it was closed.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a shame that it remains closed, but soon –

DR. PECORALE:

But I'd also like to say that I thank the Legislature for realizing the need for putting money in the budget to bring that back on line. They are to be congratulated. It is one of the things that I personally really thank them for.

DR. GITTELMAN:

So noted. Is that the end of your report, Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Yes, it is. Thank you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, Finance Committee, Carl is not here.

MR. MALLAMO:

On Carl's behalf, I will indicate that cash flow remains very tight. We are

watching our expenses very carefully and squeezing every penny out of the museum that we can. You wanted to bring up that other item, that tabling of –

DR. PECORALE:

May I just say that staff is to be commended for the November actual revenue. We are on the plus side for the first time in more than six months.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, and we did have a tabled issue that we have agreed to bring up in Finance, and that was the issue as to whether we are going to employ an administrator for the pension plan now. Is there a discussion?

DR. PECORALE:

In light of our discussions about this, I think this is something that should be held over until a later date.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Are you making a motion?

DR. PECORALE:

I'd like to make a motion that – well, I can't because there is a motion on the floor. I would like to recommend that the –

DR. GITTELMAN:

What is the verbiage of the motion, please?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Okay, I'll read it again. What page was it?

MR. FELDMAN:

And who made that motion?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Hang on a second. I'm trying to find the exact wording of the motion back in the beginning here.

DR. PECORALE:

Wasn't the motion to not employ –

MS. FUHRMANN:

He wanted the exact wording, though, and I'm looking for it. Okay, here it is:

Dr. Gittelman:

I want to add, and I think it's an appropriate point here to add, is the discussion regarding the pension plan. We have decided to keep it in its current format without hiring an administrator and that the additional cost to hiring an administrator is something that we can't afford now. Would someone be willing to put that into a motion?

Mr. Luecke:

I'll put that into a motion so we can discuss it.

Dr. Gittelman:

That's fine. Can I have a second, and then we'll go into discussion.

Mr. Macchione:

Second.

Dr. Gittelman:

Discussion?

Dr. Rogers:

Is this in reference to additional compensation for a Director?

Dr. Gittelman:

No. What this is is that we have a pension plan. We currently have the notices from TIAA CREF go to four people. They are the Director, Personnel Manager, the –

Mr. Mallamo:

Business Manager and the Treasurer.

Dr. Gittelman:

The question is that we weren't being notified by TIAA CREF for any changes that might be required by ERISA in our plan. An alternative would be to get an administrator who would take responsibility for making those changes in our plan. What we're saying here is that at least for the time being, we're choosing not to pursue an administra-

tor. That's the motion that we're concerning.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge, I think that we only needed the verbiage on the –

MS. FUHRMANN:

But then it twists in the conversation. Then we decide to table it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

But the motion is as the motion was presented.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Right, and then we decide to table it to not hire – not to hire.

MR. FELDMAN:

The motion is not to hire one.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Right.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The motion is not to hire one. In other words, what you are doing is that you are agreeing to take the exposure that comes with not hiring an administrator for the plan.

MR. FELDMAN:

Yes and no.

DR. PECORALE:

At the present time.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, at the present time. We are deferring – we can always opt to hire an administrator to administrate the pension plan, but at this time, lacking the funds, we are saying that we are choosing to administrate any ERISA required changes based upon a quadruple system of notice reception. In other words, if anybody receives a notice, there are four people now who are going to receive it. If anyone does receive it, we're going to act on it – one of them has to notify us that it is required and then we're going to pursue it. TIAA CREF is required to inform us. What we're doing is we're taking – in

other words, we're not having our changes made automatically. We are relying upon our ability to read notices.

MR. FELDMAN:

And then to direct them to make the changes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Correct.

MR. FELDMAN:

Move the question.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Again, that was what was tabled.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All right.

MS. GRAY:

Second.

DR. PECORALE:

It's not to table it. Now we're voting on the motion.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, now you are voting on the motion.

DR. PECORALE:

That's what he did; he moved the question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **It carries unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5
Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

MR. FELDMAN:

Point of information, who are the four people that are going to be notified?

DR. GITTELMAN:

They are in the minutes, and they were –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Business Manager, Treasurer, President, and Director. I did that from memory.

MR. FELDMAN:

I'd like to expand it –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Director, Personnel – I apologize.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't remember it that way.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's the Director, Personnel Manager, Business Manager and Treasurer.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Sorry about that.

MR. FELDMAN:

How about the 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents are also notified?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I will not accept notice.

MR. FELDMAN:

You will not accept notice?

DR. GITTELMAN:

No.

MR. FELDMAN:

Why?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I can't take another responsibility.

MR. FELDMAN:

What about 1st and 2nd Vice President? They've got to have a job, if they're going to be a Vice President. It's a responsibility.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It would get confused with my other plans. I just can't do it.

MR. FELDMAN:

Steve, I don't have a problem with that. All Vice Presidents should have a job.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That's fine with me, if you want to do that. We have a motion on the floor to expand notice to 1st and 2nd Vice President. Do I have a second?

MR. MACCHIONE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion, Tony?

DR. PECORALE:

I just wanted to ask you to tell me why.

MR. FELDMAN:

Why?

DR. PECORALE:

I don't have any objection to it, but I don't understand –

MR. FELDMAN:

Somebody is going to open their mail, that's why.

DR. PECORALE:

You just want two more people that will be responsible for opening their mail.

MR. FELDMAN:

Correct.

DR. PECORALE:

Okay.

MR. FELDMAN:

People could be on vacation. One or two of them could be on vacation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

TIAA CREF I think will send out six without any problem.

MR. FELDMAN:

They won't question it at all.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right, so I have no problem with it. Further discussion, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I have a procedural question. These six people who are going to get this notice, they all get a notice of a change, what will they do? Will they contact each other and say, "Did you notice the change and did you call" – Or are they all going to assume that somebody else called? Do you know what I mean?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's the classic committee.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Do you know what I mean?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I know what you mean.

MR. FELDMAN:

Somebody should have the responsibility of actually making the changes and that should be the CEO or the Director because the Director theoretically is the one who calls the company and makes the changes, not the President or the Vice President or the Treasurer. Each one of these people who receives that letter –

MR. MALLAMO:

-- Are going to call me.

MR. FELDMAN:

Exactly.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think we should modify that –

MS. FUHRMANN:

But then you may get five phone calls.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's better than none.

MR. FELDMAN:

E-mail?

DR. GITTELMAN:

E-mail or in written form.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I think that's a lot cleaner.

MR. FELDMAN:

That's a good CYA.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay? It's understood that we have expanded it to those six people, and we have made notice in e-mail and written form to the Director.

MR. FELDMAN:

Correct.

MS. FUHRMANN:

This way we have a procedure in place.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I have a motion. Do I have a second?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll second that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)** Thank you.

Was there more on the Finance Committee Report?

MR. MALLAMO:

No.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Director's Report.

MR. PECORALE:

What about the Personnel Committee?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I apologize, Deborah.

MS. GRAY:

No report.

DR. GITTELMAN:

See, that's why I skipped it. Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, on December 21st, the Suffolk County Legislature approved our 2004 capital projects, which were for façade restoration, \$200,000; waterproofing, \$120,000; improvements here at the planetarium for energy efficiency, \$30,000; ADA improvements for handicapped accessibility of \$364,000; and restoration of the habitat to match our federal grant, \$125,000. We thank them for that. Planning is already underway on all those projects.

We're mostly gearing up for the Vanderbilt Cup 101 event, the 1905 race. The event here at the museum will be October 2nd. The event in Nassau County at Mitchell Field will be October 16th. We're trying to split this up a

little bit so we don't have so much responsibility in such a short amount of time. We've already set those meetings up. Word has already gone out to the car clubs. It's been a very enthusiastic response so far.

I think we are off to a great start this year.

DR. GITTELMAN:

First I want to second your gratitude to the Legislature for providing us the funds. We did have some additional meetings with the Legislature regarding the funds on the seaplane hangar. We are awaiting the submission of plans to move that.

MR. MALLAMO:

Right, but not meetings with the Legislature. We have had meetings with the Department of Public Works.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right, the Department of Public Works. Are you done with your report?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I am.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, we're back to me again. This is my 13th term as President. I am very grateful for the opportunity. I couldn't sleep last night. I wanted to tell you why. It may sound foolish, but this is what happened to me. As you know, I am writing a book on Willie K. I say every once in a while rhetorically that Willie K. speaks to me, and he did last night. Of course, when I scan in the material from the archives, and if Florence was here, I'd really like to give her a kiss on the cheek, because the archives are fabulous. You have to go to the archives and see –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Did she leave?

DR. GITTELMAN:

She left. I want to read what Willie has to say. This is from the New York Times in 1912. Let Willie speak to us. It's entitled, "Railroad Work Comes Easy to Willie K., Jr." Willie K. was appointed Vice President of the New York Central Railroad. "No, I don't think that's true," and this was Willie speaking,

“It has been easy for me, but that has been because I was interested in it, not because it was born in me. I’m pretty sure of that. I took it up in the place because I had a very real need for something to do. Every man of this generation, I think, realizes that need. Some of them don’t heed it, I’ll admit, but they feel it just the same. I had my play time when I was a freshman at college. That’s a man’s happiest years. Do you know it? No one cares a whoop about him. He can go and come and do as he pleases and he does. I did anyhow, and I had a bully good time while I was at it.” Willie, at this juncture, is 33 years old. “But when that was over, I had to have something to do, something to occupy my mind. I don’t mean that as we speak about something to do that kills time. I mean, something constructive, something creative, something that has a living connection with the affairs of the world. I quite understand the feeling that makes a man keep in touch with his business by wireless, when he’s in mid-ocean, that makes him keep in touch with it by cable, when he is on the other side of the world. I like that throbbing sense of having a part in things that are moving, of having a part in the planning and building and improving on them after they are built.” “What is the big thing you see about the railroad of tomorrow?” “Well,” Mr. Vanderbilt replied, “The railroad of tomorrow hasn’t taken up a whole lot of my time. I have been too busy with the railroad of today and the things I don’t know about it yet, as I said a moment ago. I do believe, though, that the American railroad has about reached it’s limit of physical development.” What he goes on to say is that the era of electric railroad is at hand.

Well, I couldn’t sleep because I figured out why I was writing the book. The reason I was writing the book was because Willie kind of speaks to me. I’m one of those people that I have to do something that keeps me in touch, that keeps me engaged, something that fills that need. No, my freshman year wasn’t my happiest one, but something constructive, something creative, something that has a living connection with the affairs of the world. I quite understand the feeling that makes a man keep in touch with – that’s this place. That’s how I feel about it. This place is my special place to stay in touch to contribute to do something. I know from speaking to you, that that resonates with almost all of you. We may go about it in different ways, but we all feel the same way. This place resonates with us.

This place isn’t just a resume builder. This is just hard work. I know the three new trustees may be wondering why they’re here, but this is not just a resume builder. This is exactly what I said. You do it because you love it. I

love it.

As I mentioned before, I would like to have the Executive Committee meetings monthly. I would ask all the trustees to read the book on trusteeship that we handed out. One of the things that I found in reading this book – and the old one was red or orange, pardon me, I'm colorblind –

DR. PECORALE:

It was red.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It was red. It was different. The old one actually had a different emphasis. The old one had a much different structure for the way in which a board interacts with staff. This one is slightly different. This one – read it in sequence. Don't jump around because for some reason I felt, yes, we ought to do this and we ought to do that. For example, criteria for evaluating a CEO – one of the things I want us to do is evaluate a CEO. I think it's fair that we visit Lance annually and evaluate him. I think it's fair that we have a plan. We do. We have a long-range plan. I think we ought to measure our progress against the long-range plan.

One of the things Willie said was that the railroad has reached the limit of its physical development. Well, the museum has reached the limit of its physical development. We have no place to put programs. We need the waterfront. We have to get the waterfront built. He says that he has been very taken by the railroad of today, and he hasn't had time to work on the railroad of tomorrow. Well, the museum of tomorrow includes a waterfront. The museum of today doesn't. The museum of tomorrow will not draw as heavily on its endowment. The museum of today does. We must come up with a cohesive strategic plan to get us to a place where the museum of tomorrow becomes – or the museum of today becomes the museum of tomorrow. We have to agree upon it. There's never been any dissention about building the waterfront, but it's a good idea to get together and agree upon it once again because we have new trustees in our midst. That's my plan for the year 2005. I'm hoping that we will expand the plan for years to come whether I'm President or not until we can reach the goal of building the waterfront. Our dependence on the endowment must be diminished, and we've run out of room. That would be – yes, Tony.

DR. PECORALE:

The new book, is that going to be given to the old trustees as well?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I thought it was given to all the trustees.

MS. FURHMANN:

We already have it.

MR. MALLAMO:

You weren't at the last meeting?

DR. PECORALE:

I was at the last meeting.

MS. FUHRMANN:

You gave it out two meetings ago.

MR. MALLAMO:

Two meetings? Then you're the one that didn't get one. Anybody else not get one?

DR. PECORALE:

I've got the old one. I still have the old one.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The old one – you really have to go with the new one. The old one is just not going to cut it.

MR. FELDMAN:

It's great bedtime reading.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, it will put you right to sleep. But all the same, it's only 200 pages. That would be my report. Old business?

MR. SEIDES:

Yes, if I could.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, please.

MR. SEIDES:

Just as Chair of Buildings and Grounds, I'd just like to thank Bill Dieck and his crew for maintaining this incredible campus, 43 acres, and preparing for the snow, which is coming upon us soon. I'd also like to say that we stay in touch regarding our concern about some of the furnaces here. We have a new furnace in the mansion. It's operating beautifully. The County has promised us some additional furnaces, and we look forward to them coming here so that we can be relieved of the anxiety of the possibility of the furnaces going down. I would just like to ask Lance now if you have heard anything, question one. Number two, have we heard anything from the AAM and our position?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, on the furnaces, the furnace project is just ready to go out to bid. The planning is pretty well done on that. Just so everyone knows, the furnace in our education building – I don't know if the furnace died but we have a major leak under the floor that was going to be so extensive to fix, that we didn't want to fix it knowing we were going to have a new furnace and heating system there in the next few months. We have closed that building down for the winter, and we have moved the education operations to the cottage, which was available. We have the authority from the Fire Marshall to use that for programming. That's been done. We expect that that should be underway probably by April.

The AAM issue, the Accreditation Commission will meet on March 25th, and we should hear very soon thereafter. Their report is complete and has been submitted. I received a letter from the committee that visited extending their thanks to the trustees and staff for the wonderful visit they had in saying how impressed they were. We are cautiously optimistic that we'll have a good review.

MR. SEDIES:

Thank you, and I'd just like to thank you again for your effort during their visit.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'd like to thank everyone for their effort.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I want to apologize that we didn't have your committee on the agenda. No insult intended.

MR. SEIDES:

No problem.

DR. PECORALE:

In light of the fact that you have reimbursed the museum for the work done by the intern, I think it's appropriate that something be put in the minutes that all of the work of the trustee now becomes your property.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All the work –

DR. PECORALE:

Any of the material or work done by the intern would now become the property of Steve Gittelman.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I appreciate that.

DR. PECORALE:

Do you want it in the form of a motion?

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes.

MR. FELDMAN:

Second.

DR. PECORALE:

I'll move that since Dr. Gittelman has reimbursed the museum for the time utilized by the intern for the work done on a book that was to be prepared, and since Dr. Gittelman has reimbursed the museum, that all of those documents now become the property of Dr. Gittelman.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do I have a second?

MR. DELUISE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion? Just as a point of clarification, if anybody is reading this in the future, I don't want it to be isolated from what happened. I agreed to write a 50 page manuscript for a fundraising event, but nobody sold any pages. Given that the pages weren't sold and that the fundraiser withdrew after only raising \$2,500, we were left with a 50-page manuscript, which we did not use but I continued to write. I'm at some 250 or 300 pages now. I have thrown away a good chunk of what I did, but an intern did work on it. I was asked if I would consider reimbursing the museum \$4,000 for the expense of that intern, and I did so. In fact, I gave more than that, didn't I?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, it was about \$200 more. The actual expense was about \$3,800.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Having done that, I appreciate the release of the materials. Now if there is any further discussion –

MR. FELDMAN:

Move the question.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 10/0/0/5 Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)** I thank you very much.

Old business? Yes, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I just want to tell everybody that this is the roster you have received tonight with the names of everybody, the new trustees and everything. It's going to be redone and reissued. There are some mistakes on it.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, if you see something missing –

MS. FUHRMANN:

Please let me know.

MR. MALLAMO:

Please let Marjorie know.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I know there are a lot of e-mails missing. I already noticed. Unless your e-mail has changed, I already have it. Mine is wrong. It needs to be updated.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, old business? Yes, Bill.

DR. ROGERS:

I'm sitting through the Finance Committee meeting and all the discussion about raising funds and the lack of cash flow ability. I was quite moved by it. One of the things that I was moved by was the fact that the trustees in many organizations are a pretty good source of dollars when necessary. I feel I would like to see a fund set up, maybe call it a trustee fund or something which can be used at the discretion of the Director or the President as necessary for shortfalls.

In lieu of that, I would contribute \$5,000 in 2005 to this fund and hope that the funds will be expanded and the money will be available there in emergency situations.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you very much. I'm sure we're all very grateful.

MR. MALLAMO:

Thank you, Bill.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's very generous of you.

MR. FELDMAN:

That isn't what he was saying.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Go ahead, Stan.

MR. FELDMAN:

If I understand you, Bill, you would like to see a trustees' foundation established, to use for the lack of a better word, that all of the trustees contribute to. You want to start it off with a \$5,000 seed.

DR. ROGERS:

Right.

MR. FELDMAN:

That's what he said. You would like to have something more formal. He is not just making a donation. He would like us all to contribute to a separate foundation for the Director's use.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay.

DR. ROGERS:

Well, I am making a donation to the fund. You have to establish the fund, though.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Then we need guidelines for the fund.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Can we form a fund?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We can form a foundation or a fund.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'm just asking if it's going to be a formal foundation.

DR. GITTELMAN:

No --

MR. FELDMAN:

If it's a foundation, it's got to be formal for tax purposes, etc. Am I correct on that?

MS. GRAY:

Why don't you refer it to the Finance Committee to come back with how we could do it and what the criteria would be for the Executive Director's use.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Would that be okay with you, Bill?

DR. ROGERS:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

In the meantime, I thank you for your generosity. Given that response, thank you, Deborah, for making sense of that. I agree to that, as long as you do, Bill. Thank you.

I think I mentioned old business before, but is there any other business, new business? Yes, Michael.

MR. DELUISE:

Dowling College is the home of the Vanderbilt, too. We have another Vanderbilt Museum. What I would like to offer at some future date, if you folks would like to have a tour of the place and maybe do one of the board meetings in the Vanderbilt Mansion out in Oakdale.

DR. GITTELMAN:

That would be fun.

MR. DELUISE:

I'd love to have you out there for an evening and show you around. We're also on the water. It's the river, and it's even colder than here sometimes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

It's very pretty.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think that's a great idea.

MR. DELUISE:

Wait until the weather is a little better.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, we would like to come out there.

MR. DELUISE:

Field trip.

DR. GITTELMAN:

For those of you who are not familiar, Idle Hour was actually the place where Willie K. was a child – one of the places that he was a child.

MR. FELDMAN:

He was supposed to have spent his wedding night there.

MR. MALLAMO:

He burned the house down.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Yes, he burned the house down. He had a hot first night. Is there any other new business? The one thing that I want to mention is that I ask that all committee chairpersons remain where they are and serve until the next meeting. I would appreciate calls over the next few days for those of you who wish to change committees. I have had one or two requests already. I'm talking about those of you who seek to be chair. I will be approaching and twisting arms shortly, so let me know your interests. We'll see how good of a fit we can make it.

We have established the next meeting – the meetings are always the third Wednesday of the month. I'm making that clear. Can we have the Executive Committee meeting one week prior?

MR. SEIDES:

I have no problem with that.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Deb?

MS. GRAY:

Okay.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Marge?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I don't know. I may have to be picked up. I may not be able to drive by then. Well, sure, why not. That's probably far enough away.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, so the Executive Committee meetings will be one week prior, that will be the second Wednesday of every month.

There is another thing I want to bring to the board's attention, and that is a potential conflict of interest and how I cured it. I found that there were two copies of Vanderbilt's books. They are books, which are in great supply in our collections. They were coming up for auction. What I did was I sent Lance a letter offering him the books at the price that I paid for them at auction. If at any time – Lance checked to see if we had an abundance and what was the case?

MR. MALLAMO:

If it wasn't that we had thousands, we at least had hundreds.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We had hundreds of copies of these books. I saw them for sale, and I purchased them. I have also purchased, and I don't know if it will be delivered, and I don't know if it's authentic, an auction catalog for Mrs. Vanderbilt's estate. I didn't tell Lance about. I came upon it last night while I was surfing. If I get it, and it's real, I'll give it to you. So that will be accomplished. But the way in which I handled the conflict of these purchases is that I offered them to the museum at the price I paid for them. I understand that that's a reasonable approach toward conflicts when you're buying them. The reason why I wanted copies was, quite frankly, they serve as the basis of my book, and I have been borrowing copies from the museum.

DR. PECORALE:

How did those copies get into –

DR. GITTELMAN:

He gave them away.

DR. PECORALE:

Oh, he gave them away?

DR. GITTELMAN:

He gave them away. He printed about 500 copies or 800 copies, and then these would be copies that he would give away. They came up at a local auction house. I purchased them. I offered them to the museum. The offer still stands. If the museum wishes to purchase them back at the price I paid, you're welcome to have them today. I just want to make sure that you know.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Which book was it?

MR. MALLAMO:

"West Made East with the Loss of a Day."

DR. GITTELMAN:

They were the two around the world trips.

MS. FUHRMANN:

This isn't the one Harbuckle auctioned off, is it?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I don't know who owned them. I honestly don't. This was South Bay, but I want you to know about that conflict. It is a conflict to compete with your home institution in a collecting capacity. You can't do that. It's just that simple, but if you offer it to the institution, disclosure helps and also offering to the institution at the price you're paying helps. If the museum wants it, you can buy it. We have not established a need for an executive session. Is there a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'll do that.

MR. DELUISE:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Thank you. **(Vote: 10/0/0/5
Absent: Ms. LeBow & Mr. Luecke. Three vacant positions.)**

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.)

SG:ap